


Independent claim 7 is also amended for clarity to correct antecedent basis of the "cylindrical member" and "fastener member", and claim 8 is amended for clarity to state that the threads of said cylindrical member contact said shank. In addition, claim 7 is amended as described for claim 1 to provide the "conventional threaded member" with "a first set of threads" and "a shank including an unthreaded portion longer than openings in a workpiece through which said shank extends...". Also, the respective threads are enumerated as being a "second set of threads", "a third set of threads" and "a fourth set of threads", these threads, along with the first set of threads, all being "cut in the same direction and of approximately the same pitch".

With respect to the objections to dependent claims 11 and 12, it should be noted at line 8 of claim 7 (as amended) from which they depend specifies "threads on an outer surface of said cylindrical member..."; with claim 10 specifying at line 2 that the "cylindrical member extends beyond said fastener member...". Also, Fig. 4 shows the threaded cylindrical member 2a extending beyond the fastener member, and a threaded portion of a bolt extending beyond member 2a. A locking nut 2b, 2c (dashed lines) may be threaded onto either or both of the bolt or member 2a. The accompanying description for this is found at the middle paragraph of Pg. 7, as originally filed. Thus, the objection to claims 10 and 11 should be obviated.

The rejections to claims 1 - 5, 7 - 12 and 19 - 20 should be moot in view of the telephonic conference noted above.

Claims 14 - 18 are cancelled with this amendment responsive to the restriction requirement mailed 11/25/2002.

As all the objections and rejections are believed obviated, favorable action is respectfully requested. No new matter is added with this amendment. In the event there are outstanding issues that remain to be resolved, a telephone call is solicited.

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1 (currently amended). A nut assembly for joining two or more workpieces
2 together comprising;

3 a first fastener member having a first generally cylindrical inner bore
4 provided with a first set of threads therein,

5 a second fastener member provided with a second set of threads on
6 an exterior surface thereof for threadable engagement with said first set of
7 threads, said second fastener member having a second generally cylindrical
8 inner bore provided with a third set of threads therein,

9 said first set of threads, said second set of threads and said third set
10 of threads all being cut in the same direction and being of approximately the
11 same pitch,

12 a threaded member having a shank including an unthreaded portion
13 longer than coaxial bores in said workpieces through which said threaded
14 member extends, said threaded member further having a conventional
15 thread/shank interface,

16 whereby as said a threaded member having a conventional
17 thread/shank interface is threadably advanced into said third set of threads of
18 said second fastener member, said third set of threads of said second fastener
19 member contact said conventional thread/shank interface of said threaded
20 member, with further relative advancement rotation between said first fastener
21 member and said second fastener member causing said first fastener member
22 to be advanced past said conventional thread/shank interface of said threaded
23 member and contact a said workpiece adjacent said nut assembly.

1 1 (currently amended). A nut assembly for joining two or more workpieces
2 together comprising;

3 a first fastener member having a first generally cylindrical inner bore
4 provided with a first set of threads therein,

5 a second fastener member provided with a second set of threads on
6 an exterior surface thereof for threadable engagement with said first set of
7 threads, said second fastener member having a second generally cylindrical
8 inner bore provided with a third set of threads therein, 1wp

9 said first set of threads, said second set of threads and said third set
10 of threads all being cut in the same direction and being of approximately the
11 same pitch,

12 a threaded member having a shank including an unthreaded portion
13 longer than coaxial bores in said workpieces through which said threaded
14 member extends, said threaded member further having a conventional
15 thread/shank interface,

16 whereby as said a threaded member ~~having a conventional~~
17 ~~thread/shank interface~~ is threadably advanced into said third set of threads of
18 said second fastener member, said third set of threads of said second fastener
19 member contact said conventional thread/shank interface of said threaded
20 member, with further relative advancement rotation between said first fastener
21 member and said second fastener member causing said first fastener member
22 to be advanced past said conventional thread/shank interface of said threaded
23 member and contact a said workpiece adjacent said nut assembly.

1 2 (previously amended). A nut assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said
2 first fastener member and said second fastener member are attached by a
3 temporary attachment so that said second fastener member initially makes
4 contact with said conventional thread/shank interface, after which additional
5 torque is required to break said attachment to advance said first fastener
6 member past said conventional thread/shank interface.

1 3 (previously amended). A nut assembly as set forth in claim 2 wherein said
2 attachment provides resistance to turning of said second fastener member
3 within said first fastener member in a threading direction so as to tighten said
4 second fastener member against said conventional thread/shank interface.

1 4 (original). A fastener as set forth in claim 2 wherein said attachment is a
2 bonding agent.

1 5 (previously amended). A nut assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said
2 threaded member is a conventionally configured bolt.

1 6 (cancelled). A nut assembly as set forth in claim 1 further comprising at
2 least two coplanar members each having an opening therein, said openings
3 being coaxially aligned, with said threaded member extending through said
4 openings so that a shank of said threaded member is disposed within said
5 openings and said conventional thread/shank interface extends beyond said

6 openings, whereby when a said nut assembly is threaded onto said threaded
7 member, tightening of said threaded member on said nut assembly causes said
8 second fastener member to contact said conventional thread/shank interface,
9 with further rotation of said first fastener member causing advancement
10 thereof past said conventional thread/shank interface in order to contact a
11 respective one of said coplanar members, compressing said coplanar members
together.

1 7 (currently amended). A fastener for use in conjunction with a conventional
2 threaded member having a first set of threads and ~~bolt-like article~~ having a
3 shank including an unthreaded portion longer than openings in a workpiece
4 through which said shank extends, said conventional threaded member further
5 provided with and a conventional thread/shank interface and comprising:
6 a fastener member having a first bore with a second set of internal
7 threads therein,
8 a generally cylindrical member having a second bore, with a third set
9 of threads disposed in said second bore for threadably engaging said first set of
10 threads of said conventional threaded member ~~bolt-like article~~, and a fourth set
11 of threads on an outer surface of said cylindrical member for threadably
12 engaging said second set of internal threads of said first fastener member, said
13 first set of threads, said second set of threads, said third set of threads and
14 said fourth set of threads being all cut in the same direction and of
15 approximately the same pitch so that when said threads of said conventional

16 ~~threaded member bolt-like article~~ are threadably advanced into said second
17 bore, said unthreaded portion of said shank engages an end of said third set of
18 threads of said ~~second~~ cylindrical member and blocks further advancement of
19 said cylindrical member thereof, with further rotation of said conventional
20 threaded member bolt-like article advancing said ~~first~~ fastener member past
21 said shank ~~to be~~ and tightened against said a workpiece.

1 8 (currently amended). A fastener as set forth in claim 7 further comprising an
2 attachment coupling said fastener member and said cylindrical member
3 together so that after said third set of threads of said cylindrical member
4 contact ~~contacts~~ said unthreaded portion of said shank, additional torque is
5 required to break said attachment so that said fastener member may be
6 advanced over said unthreaded portion of shank.

1 9 (previously amended). A fastener as set forth in claim 8 wherein said
2 attachment provides resistance to turning of said cylindrical member within
3 said fastener member in a direction to tighten said fastener.

1 10 (currently amended). A fastener as set forth in claim 8 wherein said
2 cylindrical member extends beyond said fastener member when said
3 conventional threaded member bolt-like article is tightened.

1 11 (original). A fastener as set forth in claim 10 further comprising a locking
2 member threadable onto an exterior portion of said cylindrical member, and
3 threadably abutable against said fastener member for locking said fastener
4 member and said cylindrical member together.

1 12 (currently amended). A fastener as set forth in claim 10 wherein a threaded
2 portion of said conventional threaded member extends beyond said cylindrical
3 member, with a locking member threadable onto said conventional threaded
4 member ~~bolt-like article~~ and threadably abutable against said cylindrical
5 member for locking said fastener member, said cylindrical member and said
6 conventional threaded member ~~bolt-like article~~ together.

1 13 (cancelled). A fastener as set forth in claim 10 wherein said workpiece
2 further comprises at least two coplanar members each having an opening, each
3 said opening coaxially aligned, with said shank extending through both
4 openings and terminating therebeyond so that when said fastener is threaded
5 onto said threaded bolt-like article, said generally cylindrical member first
6 contacts said shank, with additional torque applied to said fastener member or
7 said bolt-like article threaded bolt or other threaded member breaking said
8 attachment so that said fastener member may be threaded onto said cylindrical
9 member to abut an adjacent said coplanar member.

1 14 (cancelled): A method for fastening adjoining members wherein a shank of a
2 threaded article passes slightly beyond said adjoining members comprising the
3 steps of:

4 1) threadably positioning a sleeve having exterior threads and interior
5 threads within a threaded bore of a fastening member,

6 2) threadably advancing said sleeve onto said article until said sleeve
7 abuts a thread/shank interface of said threaded article, halting advancement
8 of said sleeve onto said article,

9 3) continuing to threadably advance said fastening member on said
10 sleeve until said fastening member is sufficiently tightened against an adjacent
11 one of said adjoining members.

1 15 (cancelled). A method as set forth in claim 14 further comprising the step of
2 releasably attaching said fastening member and said sleeve together.

1 16 (cancelled). A method as set forth in claim 15 further comprising the step of
2 constructing said sleeve of a length longer than said fastening member.

1 17 (cancelled). A method as set forth in claim 16 further comprising the step of
2 threading a locking nut onto said sleeve in abutting relation with said fastening
3 member to lock said sleeve, said fastening member and said adjoining
4 members together.

1 18 (cancelled). A method as set forth in claim 16 further comprising threading
2 a locking nut onto threads of said threaded article in abutting relation against
3 said sleeve.

1 ¹⁶19 (previously amended). A nut assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said
2 first fastener member is fixedly attached to an adjacent one of said workpieces,
3 with rotation of said threaded member advancing said second fastener member
4 to said conventional thread/shank interface, with further rotation of said
5 threaded member tightening said second fastener member and compressing
6 said workpieces together.

1 ¹³20 (currently amended). A fastener as set forth in claim 7 wherein said
2 fastener member is affixed to an adjacent said workpiece so that rotation of
3 said conventional threaded member ~~bolt-like article~~ tightens said fastener and
4 said threaded member ~~bolt-like article~~ against said workpiece.